



**NORTHERN ROCKIES
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM 2**

Information Phone Line: 406-426-9644

Email: 2022.bullgin@firenet.gov

Inciweb: Bull Gin Complex
<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8381>

Facebook: @kootenainf
<https://www.facebook.com/kootenainf>

INCIDENT STATISTICS

Size: 4,266 acres
Completion: 36 %
Start Date: September 2, 2022
Cause: Lightning
Location: 2 miles NE of Heron, MT
Total Personnel: 80
Resources: 2 Crews, 5 Engines, 8 Heavy Equipment



An incident helicopter patrols the area around the Star Peak Lookout Tower within the Billiard Fire.

Bull Gin Complex Update

Monday, September 26, 2022



Bull Gin Complex	Acres
Government Fire	2,778
Billiard Fire	1,205
Isabella Lake Fire	283

HIGHLIGHTS: Management of the Bull Gin Complex is transitioning to a Type 3 incident management team as of 1800 today, 9/26. Updates will be released every other day. Today crews focus on mop-up, suppression repair, and completion work on the Bull Gin complex. Fire activity is expected to increase slightly through mid-week due to warmer temperatures and lower relative humidity. These conditions may result in a higher ignition probability, but the fires will likely remain low intensity. Fire behavior specialists expect the fire to continue creeping and smoldering toward established control lines. Temporary flight restrictions were lifted yesterday, September 25.

Government Fire: Firefighters continue mopping up the fire's edges, especially around the southern perimeter. Crews are performing excavator work to clear debris along the western and southeastern boundaries of the fire. A grader is repairing roads around the Government Mountain area.

Billiard Fire: Today, firefighters advance mop-up and suppression repair, especially along Billiard Cabin and Fatman Roads. Repair efforts on the western boundary of the fire will likely continue for the next two days, as will repair and mop-up along the southern boundary. Crews removed the structure wrap from the Star Peak Lookout yesterday.

Isabella Lake Fire: Crews continue monitoring fire lines.

WEATHER: The warming and drying trends continue around the Bull Gin Complex. Light morning fog by the Clark Fork River will dissolve into to a warm, sunny afternoon, with a high of about 80 degrees. The area will experience light, terrain-driven winds and relative humidity between 22 and 28 percent. A ridge of dry, high pressure will bring warmer weather to the area through Tuesday.

PRE-EVACUATION UPDATES: All pre-evacuation zones for the Bull Gin Complex/ Government Fire were lifted as of 6:00 AM September 24, 2022. Residents along Government Mountain and Timber Ridge Roads are no longer in pre-evacuation status.

CLOSURES: All closure orders remain in effect until further notice. Government Mountain Road and Rock Creek Road remain closed to the public. The Noxon Refuse Site remains open during regular hours. Area, road, and trail closures are in place for the Government, Billiard, and Isabella Lake Fires to provide for public safety and firefighting operations. See Inciweb for maps and closure descriptions:
<https://bit.ly/KootenaiNFClosures>.

WHAT IS SUPPRESSION REPAIR? Wildfire suppression repair is a set of different actions (immediately taken) to repair damages caused by firefighting activities. It can include repairing culverts, restoring roads and trails to their pre-fire condition, reducing the appearance of dozer and hand line, and other similar activities. The goal of suppression repair is to immediately minimize the potential of soil erosion and other negative impacts resulting from fire suppression activities.